

You will take special care not to admit in any way that we are bound to build the railway to Esquimalt or any other place on the Island; and while you do not at all threaten not to build there, to let them understand that this is wholly and purely a concession, and that its construction must be contingent on a reasonable course being pursued regarding other parts of the scheme.

It may be that the Local Government will desire to constitute the members for the Commons a delegation to discuss matters here; if this be the case, you will still remain until we shall communicate with you.

You will take every opportunity of noting the various matters connected with Dominion business, in accordance with instructions that will be sent.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed,) A. MACKENZIE.

(Copy.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 19th, 1874.

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to introduce Mr. James D. E. Edgar, of Toronto, who visits your Province on public business for the Government. Mr. Edgar will confer with yourself and other members of the Government of Columbia on the question lately agitating the public mind in Columbia, and will be glad to receive your views regarding the policy of the government on the construction of the railway.

But for the meeting of Parliament in four weeks, some members of the Government would have visited your Province, but Mr. Edgar, as a public man, is well known here and fully understands the questions he will discuss with you.

I need not, I am sure, assure you of my own sincere desire to do all I can, not only to act justly but generously to Columbia.

It is in your interest and in the interest of the Dominion that we should both act with a reasonable appreciation of difficulties which are unavoidable, and devise means to remove them or overcome them.

We have induced Mr. Edgar to go to Columbia, as we thought you would prefer a full conference with an agent to a tedious and possibly unsatisfactory correspondence.

I have the honor to be,

Yours truly,

(Signed,) A. MACKENZIE.

Hon. Geo. A. Walkem,
Attorney-General, Victoria.

(Copy.)

February 21st, 1874.

SIR,—The bearer is James D. Edgar, Esq., Barrister, Toronto, who visits Columbia as the Agent of the Dominion Government, to consult with your Government with reference to the late agitation concerning an extension of time for the construction of the Pacific Railway beyond that promised in the terms of Union.

Mr. Edgar will explain to Your Excellency our anxiety to do everything in our power to meet the views of your people.

He will be glad to receive your suggestions concerning matters which may require attention.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) A. MACKENZIE.

His Excellency
Lieutenant-Governor T. W. Trutch,
Victoria, British Columbia.